

Statement of

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United States Department of Energy

Before the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

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Mr. Chairman, Senator Domenici, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Energy.

I am grateful to President Bush for his confidence in me and I appreciate the Committee holding this hearing and considering my nomination. I thank Secretary Bodman and Deputy Secretary Sell for their support.

I would like to introduce my family. My father, Achille Epifani, my stepmother, Rhonda Epifani, my sister, Antonietta Epifani, and my niece, Alazondrea Epifani. I thank them each for their love and support, and I owe the deepest appreciation and the most respect to my father. He taught me to work hard, to always do my best and to be a good person. Growing up, I worked with him at his restaurant and saw how much people love him. He is an excellent chef, but his real gift is his personality. He has a great attitude about life and shows his love to his family and friends everyday. I am very lucky to have a father like him. Any success that I may achieve in this life will be because he has made it possible.

If confirmed, it would be my privilege to work with this Committee and the Congress, as well as with my colleagues in the Administration, in pursuit of policies that will best serve our Nation.

Serving as Committee Counsel from 2003 through 2005 was an excellent lesson on the importance of working in a bipartisan manner. I am very proud to have been part of the team that worked on the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Enactment of that legislation was a testament to the leadership of Senators Domenici and Bingaman, and Congressmen Dingell and Barton. Senator Domenici knows that he has a very special place in my heart, and I thank him for taking good care of me when I was on staff. I really enjoyed working on the Committee staff, and I am looking forward to again working closely with this Committee and its staff, which I so admire. I also want to acknowledge Alex Flint, who was the Staff Director when I served on the

Committee staff. In my mind, Alex has set an example of excellence and professionalism that I will do my best to follow.

In closing, I want to again thank President Bush and Secretary Bodman for the trust they have placed in me. I also want to thank the Committee for holding this hearing and considering my nomination. It would be an honor and privilege for me to serve the American people in this position.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared statement. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.